

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-01

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P R 181040Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9654

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3460

USIA FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XF, LE

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: AMBASSADOR BROWN ACTIVITIES

1. SUMMARY: WEEKEND PRESS COVERAGE AMBASSADOR BROWN'S ACTIVITIES GENERALLY LIMITED TO FACTUAL ACCOUNTS OF HIS MOVEMENTS AND COMMENTS BY LEADERS WITH WHOM HE HAS MET, AND REPORTING ON SYRIAN-INSPIRED CRITICISMS OF U.S. INTENTIONS AND ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. LEBANESE PRESS REPORTING ON AMBASSADOR BROWN'S ACTIVITIES WAS SPARSE AND GENERALLY LIMITED TO ACCURATE ACCOUNTS OF HIS MOVEMENTS AND COMMENTS BY LEADERS WITH WHOM HE HAS SPOKEN RECENTLY. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN NAHAR" WRITES: "IT WAS NOTED THAT AMERICAN ENVOY HAS METT SO FAR WITH ONLY TWO AMONG THOSE WHO ARE CANDIDATES FOR THE PRE-SIDENCY. ...JUMBLATT SAID PRESENCE OF MR. BROWN IN LEBANON WAS USEFUL AND THE SETTLEMENT WAS ACHIEVED BECAUSE OF CONTRADICTIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN AMERICANS AND OOTHER ARABS."

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3. LEFTIST "AL MOHARRIR" REPORTS: "MR. DEAN BROWN

CONTACTED MR. GEORGES GORSE BEFORE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR PARIS. MR. GORSE BRIEFED MR. BROWN ABOUT RESULTS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS IN DAMASCUS, ESPECIALLY HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASAD...MR. BROWN VISITED FOREIGN MINISTER PHILIP TAQLA. BOTH TAQLA AND BROWN REFUSED TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT AFTER THE MEETING WHICH WAS BELIEVED TO DEAL WITH POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL REFLECTIONS OF LEBANESE CRISIS. ALSO MR. BROWN MET WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON... MEETING DEALT WITH RESULTS OF GEORGES GORSE'S DISCUSSIONS IN BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS."

4. CONSERVATIVE, PRO-EGYPT "AL ANWAR" WRITES: MARONITE LEAGUE PRESIDENT FATHER SHARBEL KASSIS, ASKED HIS OPINION ON STATEMENTS BY AVARIOUS LEADERS REGARDING THE AMERICAN MEDIATION, SAID "THE AMERICAN INITIATIVE IS COMPLEMENTARY TO SYRIAN INITIATIVE AND I FELT THAT AMERICAN ENVOY BROWN DESIRED TO BRING SYRIAN INITIATIVE TO SUCCESS'."

5. FALANGE ORGAN "AL AMAL" REPORTS: "DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MR. BROWN AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR INCLUDE FORCES WHICH MIGHT ENFORCE SECURITY IN DIFFERENT PART OF COUNTRY. ALSO PART OF DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON WHAT FRENCH ENVOY GORSE MEANT WHEN HE SAID FRENCH GOVERNMENT FAVORS ESTABLISHMENT OF SECURITY SYSTEM IN LEBANON. TERM SECURITY SYSTEM USED BY GORSE REFERRED TO ESTABLISHMENT OF REGULAR SECURITY FORCES, LEBANESE AND NON-LEBANESE, ABLE TO SAFEGUARD LEBANON UNTIL IT RECOVERS ITS STRENGTH, THAT IS UNTIL AFTER ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT."

6. ALL PAPERS COVER ASPECTS OF SYRIAN-INSPIRED PUBLIC STATEMENTS ANNOUNCING OR DISASSOCIATING THEMSELVES FROM U.S. ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON. "AN NAHAR" REPORTS: "SAIQA LEADER ZUHAIR MOHSIN EMPHASIZED TO SOVIET DELEGATION WHICH HE RECEIVED YESTERDAY THAT AMERICAN PLAN AIMS AT LIQUIDATING PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND THAT AWARENESS BY THE SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP OF THIS DESIGN FACILITATED REACHING SYRIAN-PALESTINIAZ UNCLASSIFIED

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AGREEMENT ANNOUNCED IN DAMASCUS AND WHICH CONTAINED CONDEMNATION OF AMERICAN MOVES AND ATTEMPTS TO INTERNATIONALIZE AND ARABIZE CRISIS..." SAME PAPER ALSO NOTES "NO FORMAL COMMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED BY AMERICAN EMBASSY REGARDING MENTION IN DAMASCUS AGREEMENT OF CALL TO PUT AN END TO AMERICAN INITIATIVE IN LEBANON OR ON DEMAND BY PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND SOME LEFTIST PARTIES FOR BROWN TO LEAVE LEBANON."

7. "AL ANWAR" REPORTS TWO STATEMENTS ON SUCCESSIVE DAYS BY SUHAIL SUKARIYA IN NAME OF NATIONAL COMMAND OF SYRIAN BAATH PARTY DELEGATION VISITING LEBANON WHICH READ IN PART: "WHAT WE SEE OF SUSPICIOUS MOVES OF AMERICAN ENVOY IN LEBANON SHOWS EXTENT OF COOPERATION REACHED BETWEEN AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND NON-NATIONALIST PARTIES. PRESENCE OF BROWN IN LEBANON AND MOVES OF SIXTH FLEET IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND ISRAELI CONCENTRATIONS ON LEBANESE-SYRIAN BORDERS ARE NOTHING BUT PRESSURE TO BRING ABOUT FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS... SYRIAN ARMY ENTERED LEBANON AT INSISTENCE OF THOSE WHO PREVIOUSLY WERE CONSIDERED TO BELONG TO NATIONALIST MOVEMENT. THAT WAS BEFORE ARRIVAL OF MR. BROWN, WHO SUPERVISED LIQUIDATION OF RESISTANCE IN JORDAN IN 1970. THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN LIQUIDATION OF THE RESISTANCE IN BLACK SEPTEMBER AND WHO SOLD TO IRAN ARABISTAN, WHICH IS SEVEN TIMES LARGER THAN PALESTINE, ARE DEFINITELY NOT SINCERE AND SERIOUS."

8. BECAUSE OF EASTER HOLIDAY NO LEBANESE PAPERS PUBLISHING MONDAY AND ONLY ONE SCHEDULED PUBLISH TUESDAY. WILL THEREFORE HAVE NO MEDIA REACTION REPORT, UNLESS RADIO COVERAGE WARRANTS IT.
BROWN

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